

IN RECOGNITION OF LAWRENCE J. HACKETT

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a beloved husband, father, friend, and patriot—SGT Lawrence J. Hackett, Jr. who passed away in 2006 at the age of 58.

Larry was born on December 12, 1947, in Syracuse, New York. After graduation from Thomas J. Corcoran High School in 1967, he was drafted into the United States Army and assigned to the First Air Cavalry Division in South Vietnam.

After being discharged from the Army, Larry received his associate of arts degree from Onondaga Community College and went on to serve as a manufacturer's representative for companies throughout central New York and the entire Northeast. Larry was chairman of the 11th Ward Democratic Committee and also served as a manager on numerous political campaigns.

In 1999, Larry was diagnosed with Myxoid Sarcoma of the Omentum, a cancer that most likely resulted from ingesting dioxins released from Agent Orange during his wartime service in Vietnam. He died 7 years later.

In addition to being a proud member of the United States Army, Larry was a loving husband to wife Alice and doting father to daughter Amanda.

On April 21, 2008, Larry's service to his country will be honored by the Vietnam Memorial Committee as part of their In Memory program. A ceremony will take place at the Vietnam Wall where Larry's name will be added to the In Memory Honor Roll Book and a certificate honoring him, as well as some of his personal items, will be placed in the National Park Service's permanent archive. These honors will serve as a lasting reminder of the sacrifices Larry made on behalf of his country.

On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York, I congratulate Lawrence Hackett, Jr., and his family for this well deserved honor and thank him posthumously for his dedicated service to his country and community.

**INTRODUCTION OF MEDICARE HOME HEALTH FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2008**

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Home Health Flexibility Act of 2008. This bill would allow home health agencies the flexibility to use the most appropriate skilled rehabilitation professionals to open cases and to conduct the initial assessment for Medicare home health beneficiaries who do not require skilled nursing care.

Currently, occupational therapists cannot conduct the initial assessments for Medicare home health cases even when occupational therapy is included in the physician's order along with one of the other qualifying services,

like speech therapy and physical therapy. Under current law, home health agencies are not able to fully utilize all of their professional staff for Medicare rehabilitation clients, which can cause delays in beginning medically necessary care.

The Medicare Home Health Flexibility Act is actively supported by the American Occupational Therapy Association and the National Association of Home Care and Hospice.

I am proud to introduce this important legislation. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this legislation so that home health agencies can better manage their staff and better meet the needs of Medicare patients.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING KRISTI YODER FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Kristi Yoder showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Kristi Yoder was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Kristi Yoder always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Kristi Yoder on winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

**KANDY ARELLANO-TRETO**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kandy Arellano-Treto who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kandy Arellano-Treto is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kandy Arellano-Treto is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kandy Arellano-Treto for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

**A TRIBUTE TO BAFFORD HOPE HARRISON**

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Bafford Hope Harrison, recently elected and installed as Grand Master of the Masons in Maryland. Born in Talbot County, Maryland, he graduated from Hurlock High School in Dorchester County in 1942. It was there he met his wife, Willa Catherine Jaynes Harrison. They have two daughters and a son, Jerry Hope Harrison, who is following in his father's footsteps as a member of Granite Lodge #177.

During World War 11, B. Hope Harrison served in the United States Navy on a radar/sonar training ship until his honorable discharge in 1946. At age 24, after becoming an operative mason, he started his own masonry contracting business in St. Michaels, Maryland. Over the next few years, B. Hope Harrison expanded his business to general construction on residential and light industrial projects as well as development. He spent the next 40 years in construction and real estate.

The long hours and pressures of his ever-expanding business were such that he did not petition his masonry lodge until the age of 39. Since that time, he has dedicated himself to the fraternity, holding such respected titles as Worshipful Master of Granite Lodge #177, Worthy Patron of St. Michaels Chapter, W. Grand Standard Bearer, and Senior Grand Warden, and he has maintained active membership in both the York and Scottish Rite bodies while serving on the Board of Trustees since 1978.

In addition to his Masonic service he has served the Methodist Church in almost every capacity from Sunday School Superintendent to Church Lay Leader, a position he still occupies. Active in his community, he has served Talbot County and the town of St. Michaels through membership on several boards and commissions.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Grand Master Harrison. His legacy as a committed and active member of his community, church, and the Masons in Maryland ensure that he will be remembered for the consistent, dedicated service he has provided. It is with great pride that I congratulate Grand Master B. Hope Harrison on his achievement and volunteer service to the State of Maryland.

**HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SISTER MAURA BRANNICK OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Sister Maura Brannick, a sister of the Congregation of the Holy Cross who has dedicated her life to the poor and disadvantaged members of the South Bend Community. After nearly 55

years with the Congregation of the Holy Cross, Sister Maura Brannick's legacy is marked by several distinguished awards and, most recently, a health clinic dedicated in her name.

Sister Maura Brannick was born in Joliet, Illinois, to Charles and Ellen Brannick. In 1948, Sister Maura graduated from Saint Mary's Hospital School of Nursing, the same year she completed her final profession into the Sisters of the Holy Cross. For the next three decades, Sister Maura's ministry focused on providing nursing care to patients in hospitals in both Indiana and Illinois. Her life has become a living example of how one person can make a difference in many lives.

Recognizing the need for a medical facility for the poor living within South Bend, Indiana, Sister Maura founded the Chapin Street Health Center in 1986. The original clinic, located in a 400 square foot converted carriage house, has grown into a 10,000 foot facility that was renamed in 2006 to honor its founder. The Sister Maura Brannick Health Center, as it is currently known, has served over 70,000 patients since its opening and over 60,000 hours have been donated by local physicians and volunteers.

Over the past 20 years, Sister Maura has received several awards honoring her dedication to the community. In 1991, she received the Points of Light Award from President George H.W. Bush, which honors individuals who find innovative ways to meet community needs with long-term solutions. Sister Maura was named Woman of the Year in 1994 by the Executive Journal and by the YWCA in 1987. She was inducted into the South Bend Hall of Fame in 1998 and received the Leighton Award for Nonprofit Excellence in 2003 for her remarkable commitment to the working poor.

At the dedication ceremony for the Sister Maura Brannick Health Center in 2006, Sister Maura shared the following perspective: "We only have one life to live and I want to live it all. And I just thought if I can do something, I want to do it." As Nancy Hellyer, president and CEO of South Bend Regional Medical Center said during the center's dedication, "Sister Maura Brannick has touched the lives of thousands in hospitals from Indiana to Idaho and back. The last twenty years are symbolic of her remarkable career as she still spends much of her time at the Health Center, a true Godsend to residents of South Bend."

So, today I rise to pay tribute to Sister Maura for her countless efforts at improving the lives of the less fortunate within our midst. Her legacy will be forever remembered and her hard work cherished by all those whose lives she touched. May God grant Sister Brannick many more years of strength and courage so that her dedicated service to the people of Indiana may continue.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT 1ST  
CLASS JUSTIN S. MONSCHKE

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in memory of one of our nation's bravest and finest men who gave his life pro-

tecting our nation and its citizens. Sgt. 1st Class Justin S. Monschke of Krum, Texas, who served our country during Operation Iraqi Freedom, was killed on Sunday, October 14, 2007 in Arab Jabour, Iraq by a roadside bomb.

Born October 20, 1978, Justin's lifelong dream was to be a United States soldier. He joined the United States Army after high school graduation and earned the distinguished rank of Green Beret in 2002. Sgt. Monschke was an instructor in the U.S. Army Rangers, Special Forces, and served tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Among the numerous awards he earned during his courageous service are: the Green Beret, a Silver Star, a Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, and a Meritorious Service Medal. Sgt. Monschke was assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Devoted to both his country and his comrades-in-arms, Sgt. Monschke was, above all else, a family man. Always a soldier at heart, Justin assumed a new role in life when he married Melissa Morro on February 23, 2002, in Gatlinburg, Tennessee: the role of husband and father. Sgt. Monschke served in the army for more than 10 years, committed to protecting his country, community, and the future of his family.

Sgt. Monschke is remembered by his family as a hero who died doing something he loved—serving his country—and that is how he should be remembered by all. The Krum community and Sgt. Monschke's numerous friends and family members have lost a son, brother, husband, father, and friend; the United States has lost a patriot and protector. It is my honor to have represented Sergeant 1st Class Justin S. Monschke in the 26th District of Texas, and I extend my sincerest condolences to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and the nation will be forever grateful for his honorable service.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker. I rise today in honor and remembrance of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Today is the eve of the 40th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination in 1968.

Dr. King is without question one of the greatest voices and most successful activists of our time. He spoke out against racial injustice, social inequality and economic prejudice on the domestic front. He promoted non-violence as the means with which to overcome the intolerance of society both at home and abroad.

His was a voice that radiated humility in the face of great adversity and true danger. Dr. King believed silence to be a supreme betrayal and lead his life accordingly. It is not surprising that a man so great would then have a message so powerful that it still rings true today.

His speeches and writings have held a timeless message over the forty years since his passing. They help to guide us as the complexities and struggles of modern society still infringe upon our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness the world over. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer the following quote of Dr. King's as an example:

"We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time. Life often leaves us standing bare, naked and dejected with a lost opportunity. The 'tide in the affairs of men' does not remain at the flood; it ebbs. We may cry out desperately for time to pause in her passage, but time is deaf to every plea and rushes on. Over the bleached bones and jumbled residue of numerous civilizations are written the pathetic words: 'Too late'. There is an invisible book of life that faithfully records our vigilance or our neglect. 'The moving finger writes, and having writ moves on . . .' We still have a choice today; nonviolent coexistence or violent co-annihilation."

Dr. King acknowledged the interconnectedness of peace, equality and justice. Dr. King understood the personal responsibility that each of us must live up to so that we overcome, once and for all, the ills that plague and seek to separate us.

The Reverend understood the urgency of time as we work to overcome our struggles. Dr. King left us his teachings so that all around the world we may one day engage in what he termed the "beloved community."

I urge my colleagues to join me as we walk these halls of Congress as protectors of the American dream, to think about Dr. King's words as they apply to the business of today. Let us work for peace, let us put an end to racism, let us stop all social injustice and let us realize that today is the day, for tomorrow may be too late.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JENNIFER RABER FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Jennifer Raber showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Jennifer Raber was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Jennifer Raber always displayed sportsmanship on and off the court; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Jennifer Raber on winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.